

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 3, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 1 and add new Claim 9, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a pair of sheet transporting members having rotary shafts provided coaxially with each other along a cross direction perpendicular to a transport direction of a sheet, and rotatively driven independently of each other to thereby transport the sheet;

detecting means extending along the cross direction for detecting a transported state of the sheet transported by said pair of sheet transporting members; and

control means for controlling said pair of sheet transporting members on the basis of detection information of said detecting means to correct a sheet position in said cross direction and a skew feed posture of the sheet relative to the transport direction,

wherein said detecting means is a line sensor arranged parallel to said cross direction, and a size of a detectable area in said cross direction by said line sensor is larger than a size in said cross direction of at least an area through which the transporting sheet passes.

2. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,  
wherein said control means provides a transporting speed difference between said pair of sheet transporting members.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said detecting means is disposed upstream of said pair of sheet transporting members with respect to the transport direction of the sheet.

5. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said detecting means is disposed downstream of said pair of sheet transporting members with respect to the transport direction of the sheet.

6. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means controls said pair of sheet transporting members to correct a deviation of the sheet in the cross direction simultaneously with correcting a deviation of the sheet in a skew feed direction.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising calculating means for calculating, on the basis of the detection information of said detecting means, a movement direction and a movement amount of the sheet in said cross direction relative to a normal transported position, and a skew feed direction and a skew feed amount.

8. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said calculating means calculates the skew feed direction and the skew feed amount after correcting a deviation in the cross direction of the sheet to thereby calculate a total skew feed direction and a total skew feed amount, and said control means controls said pair of sheet transporting members to correct a deviation in the skew feed direction of the sheet on the basis of said total skew feed direction and said total skew feed amount.

9. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a pair of sheet transporting members having rotary shafts provided coaxially with each other along a cross direction perpendicular to a transport direction of a sheet, and rotatively driven independently of each other to thereby transport the sheet;

detecting means extending along the cross direction for detecting a transported state of the sheet transported by said pair of sheet transporting members;

control means for controlling said pair of sheet transporting members on the basis of detection information of said detecting means to correct a sheet position in said cross direction and a skew feed posture of the sheet relative to the transport direction;

calculating means for calculating, on the basis of the detection information of said detecting means, a movement direction and a movement amount of the sheet in said cross direction relative to a normal transported position, and a skew feed direction and a skew feed amount,

wherein said calculating means calculates the skew feed direction and the skew feed amount after correcting a deviation in the cross direction of the sheet to thereby calculate a total skew feed direction and a total skew feed amount, and said control means

controls said pair of sheet transporting members to correct a deviation in the skew feed direction of the sheet on the basis of said total skew feed direction and said total skew feed amount.